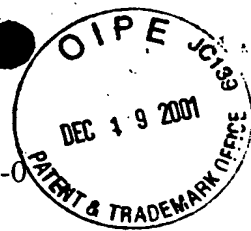


Docket No. 1587-0024-0



RECEIVED  
DEC 21 2001  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Kazunori SAITOH et al

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1641

SERIAL NO: 08/893,759

: EXAMINER: CHIN

FILED: July 11, 1997

FOR: IMMUNOASSAY

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Rejection dated December 19, 2000, and concurrent with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks and the enclosed Opinion of Mr. Kazunori Saitoh.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Sub  
D-1  
C1

--7. (Twice Amended) An agglutination immunoassay for detecting an antigen in a sample, comprising:

(a) sequentially contacting the sample with

(i) a first antibody which is capable of specifically binding to a first binding site on the antigen, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on an insoluble carrier, and then